sion of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly at which I have the honor to preside.

2. As you are aware I was not in charge of the administration during any portion of the past year. I cannot therefore speak from personal knowledge of the events of the year. I shall proceed to place before you at once a resumé of the working of the administration as gathered from the reports of Heads of Departments, and other facts and figures laid before me.

3. **Land Revenue.**—The season was generally unfavourable for agriculture in the Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum and Kottayam Divisions and there was a rise in the prices of food-grains. There was no marked variation in the wages of labour.

The net demand for the year was Rs. 25,26,959 and the amount collected Rs. 23,96,212. The percentage of collection stood at 94·83 against 95·54 during the previous year. Under the head of old arrears the total amount was Rs. 2,54,137 of which Rs. 24,931 was written off as irrecoverable. Of the net demand a sum of Rs. 47,033 was recovered. Of 27,878 puduval cases, 6,252 or 22·42 per cent. were disposed of, while the disposals under escheat and other revenue cases numbered 41 and 265 respectively. There were 1,468 and 802 cases under the Land Conservancy and Land Acquisition Regulations, of which 1,380 and 587 were disposed of.

As in the previous year, sanction was accorded for the recovery of the paddy tax at the rate of 10 chs. per parah in some taluks in which the crops failed.

The scheme for converting grain-tax into money to which reference was made in the address last year was sanctioned by His Highness the Maha Rajah during the year under review. As you are aware, option was given to the ryots to have the tax in kind commuted into money at 11 chuckrams per parah or to continue payment in kind. The enquiries made by the Tahsildars in the several taluks showed that the ryots welcomed the change and orders were accordingly issued to give effect to the scheme from the beginning of the current year.

In connection with this scheme, opportunity was also taken to reduce the kist instalments from 10 to 6, 3 for each crop. In conse-

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quence of these changes and the recent reform in the account system, the question of revising the village and taluk establishments has also been taken along with a scheme for the maintenance of land records.

4. **Survey.**—The few villages that remained incomplete under certain processes of survey in Minachil Taluk were finished, thus completing the cadastral survey of the whole State.

Survey School.—53 Government employés and 224 private students passed out of the Survey school during the year.

5. **Revenue Settlement.**—As mentioned in the last year's address, the new scheme introduced in 1080 for the speedy and satisfactory close of settlement operations was found after a year's experience to require some modifications in the light of further information obtained as to the real state of the arrears. A revised forecast was sanctioned during the year, under which the period originally fixed for some taluks was slightly extended, curtailed in regard to others, and left unchanged for some others. The original estimate of 4 years for completion of settlement throughout the State was not exceeded.

The work of the Department as it stood when the new scheme was introduced and the results attained since will now be stated:—

i. 10 taluks had been treated as settled, though the settlement registers had not been furnished to the Revenue department for any of the taluks and pattahs had still to be issued for several numbers in 4 out of the 10 taluks.

The Settlement Department has now finally closed its labours in these 10 taluks.

ii. Work was going on in 15 taluks chiefly under registration, which was being protracted for several years in each taluk.

By the simplified procedure laid down in the new scheme an enormous quantity of work under this head has been turned out in 1080 and 1081, which facilitated the progress of work under subsequent stages.

Under the revised forecast above referred to, 8 taluks were to be settled in 1081. With the exception of Eraniel for which, owing to special difficulties, extension has been granted for another year, 7

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